

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 SSM-03 MCT-01
ACDA-12 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05
SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 NEAE-00 /097 W
-----031117 171503Z /40

O 171403Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0683
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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JERUSALEM PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: IS, US, PGOV
SUBJ: PRESS REPORTS EXTENSIVELY ON U.S. INITIATIVES, VIEWS
ACTIVE AMERICAN ROLE AS CRUCIAL

SUMMARY: TODAY'S PRESS GIVES EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO
SPECIFIC AMERICAN INITIATIVES: AN ANTICIPATED WEST BANK COM-
PROMISE PROPOSAL, AN AMERICAN SUGGESTION OF THREE CONFERENCE
SUBCOMMITTEES, A SADAT-BEGIN-CARTER SUMMIT PROPOSED BY THE U.S.
A BROAD THEME REGARDING THE CRUCIAL NATURE OF ACTIVE AND CON-
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STRUCTIVE AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IS SOUNDED, AS THE ALARMED RE-
PORTS OF AMERICAN PRESSURE WIDELY FEATURED IN SUNDAY AND MON-
DAY'S PAPERS ARE MUTED. END SUMMARY

1. AS THE POLITICAL TALKS CONVENE TODAY IN JERUSALEM, THE ISRAELI
PRESS IS PLAYING UP, IN NUMEROUS REPORTS ON ANTICIPATED AMERICAN
PROPOSALS AND INITIATIVES, THE CRUCIAL AND ACTIVE U.S. ROLE.

PROMINENT FRONT PAGE SPACE IS DEVOTED TO ANALYSIS OF AMERICAN INTENTIONS UNDER SUCH HEADLINES AS: "IN THE EVENT OF AN IMPASSE--THE U.S. WILL PROPOSE INTERIM AGREEMENT" (YEDIOT AHARONOT); U.S. WILL PROPOSE TODAY DIVISION OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE INTO SUBCOMMITTEES" (MAARIV); AND "VANCE WILL WORK TO PREVENT BLOW-UP OF CONFERENCE; WILL PRESENT COMPROMISE PROPOSALS" (MAARIV).

2. THROUGHOUT THIS EXTENSIVE COVERAGE, AND REFLECTED IN THESE HEADLINES, A COMMON THEME IS EMPHATICALLY SOUNDED: THE US HAS TAKEN UPON ITSELF THE RESPONSIBILITY OF AVERTING A NEGOTIATING BREAKDOWN. ("BLOWING UP" IS THE UNIVERSALLY APPLIED TERM.) AN ACCOMPANYING MESSAGE NEARLY AS EXPLICIT IN ITS EXPRESSION IS THAT AN ACTIVE AMERICAN ROLE OF THIS KIND, IF NOT ORIGINALLY SOUGHT BY ISRAEL, IS NOW PERCEIVED AS ESSENTIAL TO FUTURE PROGRESS. IT IS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT A US WEST BANK PROPOSAL AND THE SUBCOMMITTEE SUGGESTION ARE REPORTED (ALTHOUGH THERE HAS NOT YET BEEN EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THESE TWO DEVELOPMENTS). IN ADDITION TO ARTICLES ON THESE INITIATIVES, THERE ARE WIDESPREAD REPORTS OF AN AMERICAN INTENTION TO ARRANGE A SADAT-BEGIN-CARTER SUMMIT. WHILE THERE IS A CONSENSUS VIEW THAT THE AMERICAN ROLE IS NOW CRUCIAL--AND THAT ACTIVE AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IS NOT NECESSARILY EQUIVALENT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DAMAGING AMERICAN PRESSURE--THE PRESS EMPHASIZES THE EXISTENCE OF "RED LINES" WHICH MARK THE OUTER BOUNDS OF ISRAELI FLEXIBILITY. THUS, MAARIV CONCLUDES ITS EDITORIAL, IN BOLD FACE TYPE, WITH A RENEWED WARNING THAT THERE ARE LIMITS TO CONCESSIONS AND COMPROMISE, SET BY ISRAEL'S OWN UNDERSTANDING OF THE VITAL ELEMENTS OF ITS SECURITY AND EXISTENCE.

3. THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE TONE AND CONTENT OF THIS REPORTAGE AND THE COVERAGE OF THE AGENDA WRANGLE AND THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE JERUSALEM CONFERENCE IS STRIKING. ON SUNDAY AND MONDAY THE THEME WAS ONE OF AMERICAN PRESSURE, OF THE US DOING EGYPT'S BIDDING, AND, FINALLY, OF ISRAEL CAVING IN. THUS, BLOCH IN DAVAR WRITES THAT "ISRAEL HAS GIVEN IN TO MOST OF THE US AND EGYPTIAN DEMANDS...(AFTER) THE US BROUGHT HEAVY PRESSURE TO BEAR UPON THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT;" "...THE ULTIMATIVE PRESSURE EXERTED BY SECRETARY VANCE IS CAUSING CONCERN OVER THE PRESSURES WHICH MIGHT BE EXERTED DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS." BEN-PORAT IN YEDIOT REFERS TO THE "OPPRESSIVE ATMOSPHERE OF A PERIOD OF GRACE EXTENDED TO ISRAEL BY EGYPT, WITH THE CONSENT

AND BLESSING OF THE US,," IN ITS DECISION TO
COME TO JERUSALEM AFTER ALL. THE ALARMED TONES
WHICH PERVADED THE WEEKEND PRESS HAVE QUICKLY--AND
AT LEAST TEMPORARILY--SUBSIDED. THE SHORT-LEVED
POSTPONEMENT OF THE JERUSALEM CONFERENCE
IS NOW REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN "AN OBJECTIVELY CORRECT
DECISION" (JERUSALEM POST) MADE ON THE ADVICE OF
FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN. THE THEME OF US PRESSURE
HAS GIVEN WAY TO AN EXPECTATION OF VITAL AND CON-
STRUCTIVE AMERICAN PARTICIPATION. WHAT IT'S LIFE SPAN
WILL BE IS ANYONE'S GUESS. LEWIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN INTEREST REPRESENTATION, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TELAV00762
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780024-1126
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780153/aaaabskc.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9abfcfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3759401
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REPORTS EXTENSIVELY ON U.S. INITIATIVES, VIEWS ACTIVE AMERICAN ROLE AS CRUCIAL SUMMARY: TODAY'S PRESS GIVES EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO
TAGS: PGOV, MPOL, IS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbcr://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9abfcfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014